In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for treating myocardial infarction comprising:

administering to a subject in need of such treatment an Akt ~~molecule~~ nucleic acid in an amount effective to inhibit cardiac tissue necrosis in the subject, wherein the Akt nucleic acid comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding an Akt polypeptide which shares at least 98% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cardiac tissue necrosis is mediated by increased apoptotic cell-death of a cardiomyocyte.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cardiac tissue necrosis is mediated by increased apoptotic cell-death of a cardiac tissue endothelial cell.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt molecule is administered acutely.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the Akt molecule is administered acutely into the apical and anterolateral free wall of the heart.

6-38. (canceled)

39. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid comprises a nucleic acid sequence that encodes an Akt polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

40. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid comprises a nucleic acid sequence that encodes an Akt polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

41. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid comprises a nucleic acid that encodes an Akt polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

42. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid consists of a nucleic acid that encodes an Akt polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

43. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid consists of a nucleic acid that encodes an Akt polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

44. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid consists of a nucleic acid that encodes an Akt polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

45. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid has a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

46. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid has a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:3.

47. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid has a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:5.

48. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid has a nucleic acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1.

49. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid has a nucleic acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3.

50. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid has a nucleic acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:5.

51. (new) A method for treating myocardial infarction comprising:

administering to a subject in need of such treatment an Akt polypeptide in an amount effective to inhibit cardiac tissue necrosis in the subject, wherein the Akt polypeptide shares at least 98% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

52. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the Akt polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

53. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the Akt polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

54. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the Akt polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

55. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the cardiac tissue necrosis is mediated by increased apoptotic cell-death of a cardiomyocyte.

56. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the cardiac tissue necrosis is mediated by increased apoptotic cell-death of a cardiac tissue endothelial cell.

57. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the Akt polypeptide is administered acutely.

58. (new) The method of claim 57, wherein the Akt polypeptide is administered acutely into the apical and anterolateral free wall of the heart.